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Amendment  
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10002-US01

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1. (Currently amended)      A catheter comprising:  
a tubular catheter shaft, the tubular catheter shaft having a proximal portion and a distal portion,  
the distal portion terminating in a distal tip, the distal tip comprising an inner matrix layer, an  
outer matrix layer and at least one stripe positioned between at least a portion of the inner matrix  
layer and the outer matrix layer, the at least one stripe being substantially parallel to a  
longitudinal axis of the distal tip, the inner matrix layer defined by at least one inner matrix  
material and the outer matrix layer defined by at least one outer matrix material different from  
the inner matrix material, and the at least one stripe defined by at least one stripe material, the at  
least one inner matrix material and at least one outer matrix material each having a  
predetermined hardness and the at least one stripe material having a predetermined hardness, the  
predetermined hardness of the at least one stripe material having a greater durometer value than  
the predetermined hardness of the at least one inner matrix material and at least one outer matrix  
material.
2. (Original)      The catheter of claim 1 wherein the tubular catheter shaft defines a lumen.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original)      The catheter of claim 3 wherein the least one stripe has a length  
substantially equal to that of the matrix.
5. (Withdrawn)
6. (Withdrawn)
7. (Withdrawn)
8. (Withdrawn)
9. (Withdrawn)
10. (Original)      The catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one stripe is a plurality of  
stripes.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Withdrawn)
13. (Withdrawn)
14. (Withdrawn)

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15. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of stripes is distributed ~~throughout~~ between the inner matrix layer and the outer matrix layer in a uniform manner.
16. (Withdrawn)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Withdrawn)
19. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 10 wherein each of the plurality of stripes has a uniform orientation relative to ~~[[a]]~~ the longitudinal axis of the distal tip.
20. (Withdrawn)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the inner matrix layer has an outside surface, the at least one stripe being engaged to the outside surface of the inner matrix layer.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Withdrawn)
28. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one inner matrix material and the at least one outer matrix material are each ~~[[is]]~~ selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: polyester/polyether elastomers, polyurethane-polyether polymers, polyester-polyurethanes, polyester-polyurethanes, polyether block amides (PEBA), styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock copolymers, styrenic block copolymers, polyurethanes, silicone rubber, natural rubber, copolyesters, polyamides, EPDM rubber/polyolefin, nitril rubber/PVC, fluoroelastomers, butyl rubber, epichlorohydrin, soft block copolymers, and any combinations thereof.
29. (Original) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the at least one stripe material is selected from at least one member of the group consisting of: polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polytrimethylene terephthalate (PTT), engineering thermoplastic polyurethanes, fluoropolymers,

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polyester/polyether elastomers, polyurethane-polyether polymers, polyester-polyurethanes, polyether block amides (PEBA), polyolefins, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene polymers, polyacrylonitrile, polyacrylate, vinyl acetate polymer, cellulose plastics, polyurethanes, polyacetal, polyethers, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyphenylene sulfide, polyarylethersulfones, polyaryletherketones, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyamide copolymer, and any combinations thereof.

30. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the at least one inner matrix material and the at least one outer matrix material each have ~~[[has]]~~ a durometer hardness value in a range of about 25D to about 74D, and the at least one stripe material has a durometer hardness value in a range of about 55D to about 84D.

31. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 30 wherein the at least one inner matrix material and the at least one outer matrix material each have ~~[[has]]~~ a durometer hardness value of about 55D, and the at least one stripe material has a durometer hardness value of about 80D.

32. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 1 wherein the catheter is selected from the group consisting of ~~dilatation~~ dilatation catheters, guide catheters, over-the-wire catheters, rapid exchange catheters, single-operator-exchange catheters, medical device delivery catheters, and any combinations thereof.

33. (Original) The catheter of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the distal tip is radiopaque.

34. (Currently amended) A tubular member for use as a distal tip of a catheter comprising: a matrix and at least one stripe, the matrix having at least two adjacent matrix layers at least partially defining the tubular member, the at least one stripe ~~engaged to the matrix material~~ positioned between two matrix layers, the at least one stripe being substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of tubular member, the matrix layers each defined by at least one matrix material, wherein the at least one matrix material of one matrix layer is different that the at least one matrix material of another matrix layer and the at least one stripe defined by at one stripe material, the at least one matrix material having a predetermined hardness and the at least one stripe material having a predetermined hardness, the predetermined hardness of the at least one stripe material having a greater durometer value than the predetermined hardness of the at least one matrix material.